



# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** Friday, September 22, 2006  
**District:** 05 – Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties  
**Contact:** Jim Shivers or Colin Jones  
**Phone:** (805) 549-3237 or (805) 549-3189  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY TO WIDEN HWY. 101 THROUGH SANTA MARIA

**SANTA MARIA** – Work is now underway on the long awaited expansion of Hwy. 101 through Santa Maria. The \$32 million project will widen the highway from four to six lanes from Santa Maria Way to the Route 135 overcrossing.

A ground breaking ceremony for the project was held earlier this month.

Crews have begun trimming and clearing trees along the highway in preparation for the construction of five soundwalls. Three will be built before the new traffic lanes are added. A temporary fence is being installed to replace some of the existing fences. It will be removed when the soundwalls are completed.

The widening of the highway includes a new northbound and southbound lane of traffic. Work in the existing center divider is expected to begin in December. Three undercrossing structures will be widened to accommodate the additional lanes and wider shoulders. Work on this part of the project is scheduled to begin in April of next year.

For more information regarding this project, the public can contact Caltrans District 5 Public Affairs at 805-549-3318 or visit the Santa Maria 6-lane web site at <http://www.dot.ca/dist05/projects/sm6lane/index.html>





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<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/maint/road/upsb.htm>

